

REPORT NO.

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SUMMARY

The start of the harvesting season in the southern areas of the Ukraine, it is implicitly admitted, has not revealed the expected high work tempos. In a number of oblasts, in fact, field work is even more sluggish than last year. Mounting official concern about the prospect of better winter conditions for the livestock is seen in the continuing editorial strictures about the unjustifiably slow progress in fodder procurement. Much of the blame for this unsatisfactory performance is placed on the familiar reluctance to make better use of the available machinery, as in Kazakhstan for example, where a good deal of the work is still done by hand. Reports from the same Republic reveal that the fight against the widespread violations of the agricultural statute has been only partially successful since a large share of the stolen farm property and funds has not yet been recovered.

The much-discussed topic of suppression of criticism within the Party organizations is still aired on a number of regional transmitters. Aversion to criticism at some Party levels is indeed so strong that certain officials are said to be "going to extremes" (udaritsya v krainost) to avoid it. One of such extremes is a do-nothing policy which, it is hinted, is preferable to defending one's action against criticism "from below" (snizu). The communist personnel training system, and lack of discrimination in admission to Party membership continue to claim official attention.

In the anti-U.S. campaign there is increasing emphasis on the qualitative aspect of anti-Americanism--bigger and beastlier crimes at home and abroad, etc.--but the volume of broadcasts devoted to the theme has been more or less constant.

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